

25 February 1954

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MEMORANDUM TO : Chief, SR/3  
FROM : SR/3/M2B  
SUBJECT : Contact with ABRAMTCHIK on 9 February 1954

1. This contact with ABRAMTCHIK was effected in New York City at the Hotel Governor Clinton to discuss the ARQUOR Project in general terms. When the meeting was laid on, it was understood by both parties that the conference would serve as a 'sounding board' for current operational problems.

2. THE AREA REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM: The case officer informed ABRAMTCHIK that RAGULA had suggested two new individuals as temporary representatives in England and France in lieu of MARGOWICZ and MAK. It was agreed that while both MARGOWICZ and MAK were attending Louvain University it would be undesirable to have them interrupt the tour. ABRAMTCHIK was informed that the matter of the temporary replacements was under consideration. He made no comment.

3. THE STUDY PROGRAM: As outlined in the previous conference with ABRAMTCHIK, the study effort will be a one-man venture. On the strength of a POC granted [ ] [ ] undertakes the study, the undersigned case officer requested ABRAMTCHIK to arrange for an introduction to the nominee. This ABRAMTCHIK agreed to do and the date was set for 16 February 1954. ABRAMTCHIK was notified that the purpose of the meeting was not to make definite assignments on the proposed study, but rather an attempt to evaluate the nominee as an individual. ABRAMTCHIK reiterated his praise of the nominee, then suggested that perhaps it would be more advantageous if he, ABRAMTCHIK would leave the nominee and the case officer for a private discussion. The undersigned stated that such a move was unnecessary, but as the suggestion came from ABRAMTCHIK it might be better.

ABRAMTCHIK was further informed of our suggestions in altering the presentation perhaps starting with the WORLD WAR II Byelorussian emigration and government, prefaced by a outline of the cultural aspects. ABRAMTCHIK reflected that this was purely mechanical detail of the study and should be discussed between the case officer and [ ] He stated that as far as he was concerned any decision at which we arrived would be satisfactory to him.

Concerning VAKAR studies now in possession of the Agency, ABRAMTCHIK noted that he personally knew VAKAR and that the studies which had been produced under the auspices of HARVARD UNIVERSITY, were not accurate, a fact VAKAR himself had admitted to ABRAMTCHIK.

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4. POLITICAL OUTLINE: During the entire course of the conference ABRAMTCHIK appeared critical of the AMERICAN COMMITTEE. This was a reversal of his previous remarks made to the undersigned at an earlier contact at which time he had nothing but praise for the AMERICAN COMMITTEE and its members. He insinuated that ADMIRAL STEVENS was not too well qualified for the job as chairman of the AMERICAN COMMITTEE, noting that "he (ADMIRAL STEVENS) was only in Moscow and therefore was more prone to accept the Russian point of view". He felt that STEVENS was being badly advised by "Russophiles". He stated that almost the same condition existed in the EAST EUROPEAN FUND and THE FORD FOUNDATION where money was being given to Russian-oriented groups while the nationalities were being ignored.

ABRAMTCHIK then used KERENSKY to illustrate his thesis of Russian influence. He said that KERENSKY was a man ousted and held in disrepute by "his own people" yet he was often consulted on the emigre problem by the AMERICAN COMMITTEE. He added that several times in Paris, MAGUIA he and KERENSKY discussed the nationality problem. At these meetings KERENSKY appeared favorably inclined to the nationality question. Now according to ABRAMTCHIK, he has taken an anti-nationality approach. This inconsistency in Russian emigre thinking is reflected in the policy of the AMERICAN COMMITTEE.

ABRAMTCHIK seemed particularly upset by the fact that the MAKYS conference has failed to produce any results. Although he did not mention what he expected, he did say that "my own people are laughing at us". It is assumed by the undersigned that ABRAMTCHIK means his opposition is taking this opportunity to ridicule him for cooperating with the AMERICAN COMMITTEE. The attitude displayed by ABRAMTCHIK on the problem of the AMERICAN COMMITTEE may be an indication of the thinking of the other groups which participated in the formulation of MAKYS. According to ABRAMTCHIK, the fact that the groups agreed to combat Bolshevism is fine for the present, but the thinking should be expanded to include the solution to the nationality problem after the defeat of Bolshevism. Without this end product, the policy is short-sighted.

On the subject of [ ] ABRAMTCHIK noted that STANKIEWICZ did not accept the position as the chief of the Byelorussian Section but had decided to remain with the newspaper. He told the undersigned case officer that ZUK-HRYZKIEWICZ had been designated as the alternate, but has not been able to obtain his visa from the West German Republic to make the trip.

5. OPERATIONAL: ABRAMTCHIK was told that the unavailability of JASKIEWICH at the designated time in Munich fostered a cancellation of the new team. He was further informed that the amount of time remaining did not allow for training of the candidates to our satisfaction. We did not want to run an operation merely for the sake of having an operation. ABRAMTCHIK agreed with this explanation and added that he personally felt that our training period was not adequate and should be extended to about one year. He illustrated this remark by making reference to the Soviet agent training system. This turn in the conversation

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provided ABRAMTCHIK with the perfect opportunity to bring up the perpetual Cadre School controversy.

6. CADRE SCHOOL: ABRAMTCHIK was quite strong in his oft-repeated plea for the Cadre School. He said that such a school should have about 30 men, costing approximately \$10,000 annually per man. These men should be trained in the AMERICAN system of government, its basic philosophies, history and organization in addition to diversionary and espionage tasks. He continued that in the event of open conflict, these men, properly trained and oriented, would do more in Byelorussia than 50 quickly-trained agents. He said that because these men would be of a higher type, they could rally indigenous support about them, which ABRAMTCHIK maintains is present.

He then began to recant the economic benefits to the United States once Byelorussia became independent. He noted that because most of the people in the Byelorussian government would be AMERICAN trained or oriented, it would be in a favorable position to invest in Byelorussia and enjoy privileged trade rights. The undersigned informed ABRAMTCHIK that the present circumstances were most unfavorable for any large-scale, long-term investment. Reluctantly, ABRAMTCHIK dropped the subject.

7. RECRUITING: The case officer informed ABRAMTCHIK that the possibility of continuing a REDSOX type recruitment in Europe was now impossible. He was asked to elaborate on his previous statements that there were many potential candidates in the Western Hemisphere. ABRAMTCHIK stated that he did not know why we did not attempt recruiting in this hemisphere, noting that the argument offered by ☐ ☐ e.g. it would be impossible to remove these young emigres from the scene without arousing suspicion, was invalid. He stated that approximately 30 young Byelorussians are now in the AMERICAN army. He added that the candidates could be withdrawn under the same cover. The matter was not pursued any further.

8. PERSONAL: ABRAMTCHIK stated that he had a personal matter to discuss with the case officer. The undersigned asked him the nature of this matter and ABRAMTCHIK quickly replied that he needed \$1,000 immediately and would we grant him the sum. When asked why he needed the money, he stated that he still had many more organizational trips to make throughout the UNITED STATES and the Byelorussian organizations were running out of money. He further stated that his wife had a recent operation for appendicitis and he wanted to send her away for a rest. He felt that this money would help him in doing that. The undersigned case officer was sympathetic to the plea, but informed ABRAMTCHIK that under present financial restrictions it would be almost impossible to undertake such a grant. However, the matter would be referred to Headquarters for consideration.

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